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SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT
OR
BOROUGH OF SUDBURY
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for 1954

TO the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Sudbury:—

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration, the Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Borough of Sudbury for the year 1954.

The vital statistics for the year whilst somewhat lower than those for the country as a whole are fairly satisfactory. There was an excess of deaths over births but nevertheless the population of the town showed a gratifying increase.

No great changes were noted among the causes of death but of current interest is that of the eleven male cases of cancer three were of the lung type.

The year was happily free from any outbreak of notifiable disease and the number of cases of dysentery and food poisoning diminished. Fewer cases of Tuberculosis remained on the register than at the end of the previous year.

I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the support received from the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and to record my thanks to the Town Clerk, Mr. R. Coates, the Borough Surveyor, Mr. C. L. Heyne, and Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. K. Hunt for their co-operation during the year reviewed.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. P. BARCLAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

1.—General Statistics

Figures in brackets relate to the previous year

Population, Registrar General's Estimate	6280 (6205)	Area	1925 acres
Number of inhabited Houses	2754 (2700)	Rateable Value	£39,560 (£37,799)
Sum represented by a penny rate at 31/3/54	£152 17s. 9d. (£147 11s. 2d.)		

2.—Extracts of Vital Statistics for the Year

LIVE BIRTHS	TOTAL	M	F	
Legitimate	68 (92)	33 (52)	35 (40)	Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated
Illegitimate	3 (5)	1 (1)	2 (4)	population 11.3 (15.63)
	—	—	—	Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000
Total ..	71 (97)	34 (53)	37 (44)	estimated population 12.4 (17.19)
	—	—	—	England and Wales 15.2 (15.5)
STILL BIRTHS				
Legitimate	2 (1)	0 (0)	2 (1)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births .. 28.4 (10.2)
Illegitimate	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live Births,
	—	—	—	England and Wales 24.0 (22.4)
Total ..	2 (1)	0 (0)	2 (1)	
	—	—	—	

Illegitimate Birth Rate 2.9 per cent.

DEATHS registered in 1954	Death Rate (crude)	..	..	14.2 (15.15)
	Death Rate (adjusted)	..	..	9.5 (10.61)
	Death Rate of England and Wales			11.3 (11.4)
TOTAL 89 (94) Male 41 (45) Female 48 (49)				
Number of Women dying in or in consequence of child-birth, pregnancy or abortion				
(a) from sepsis	..	..	..	0
(b) other causes	..	..	..	0
Deaths of Infants under one year	Legitimate	..	..	2 (0)
	Illegitimate	..	..	0 (0)
Death Rate of Infants under one year				
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	28.2 (10.2)
England and Wales per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	25.5 (26.8)
Causes of Death of Infants under one month				
(a) Prematurity	..	..	..	0
(b) Congenital Malformation	..	..	..	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	..	..	..	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	0
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11 (12)	10 (6)	22 (18)	
Deaths from Heart Diseases	10 (19)	17 (25)	27 (44)	
Deaths from Bronchitis	4 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	
Deaths from Pneumonia	2 (1)	9 (2)	11 (3)	
Deaths from Nephritis	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (1)	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Deaths from Tuberculosis (other forms)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Deaths from Leukaemia	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	
Deaths from Vascular Lesions of the				
Nervous System	8 (6)	6 (9)	14 (15)	
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Accidents (Other)	2 (1)	2 (0)	4 (1)	
Suicide	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (1)	
Homicide	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	

SECTION B

A. WATER SUPPLY

An adequate supply of water has been maintained throughout the district. Quarterly bacteriological analyses have been taken, in all cases the results have been excellent. The samples were taken after chlorination, which is carried out as a precautionary measure only.

No chemical analysis was taken during the year. Owing to the extreme hardness of the water there is no danger from dissolved lead.

B. SEWERAGE AND SEWERAGE DISPOSAL

A reasonably good effluent has been maintained throughout the year.

SECTION C

1. PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.
One Sanitary Inspector, Member of Sanitary Institute.

2. AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The West Suffolk County Council are responsible for the ambulance service which is carried on through the agency of the West Suffolk Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

The West Suffolk County Council's Home nursing and midwifery service supply two District Nurses.

4. INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The West Suffolk County Council provide one centre in the town. A clinic is held weekly at the Youth Club premises, Stour Street, on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

5. HOSPITALS

St. Leonards, 43 Beds.
Walnuttree, 170 Beds.

6. LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service directed by the Medical Research Council, at Ipswich has given the Borough very generous service.

SECTION D

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector during 1954 :

COMPLAINTS.

Total number of complaints received	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	535
Complaints of nuisances or defects in private dwelling houses				..	..	..	..	45
Complaints re unsound food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35
Requests for fumigation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Complaints re rats and mice	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Council house tenants' complaints	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	357
Miscellaneous complaints	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Total number of inspections for all purposes (including inspections of Council houses)	1576
Number of re-inspections	1161
Number of nuisances found	55
Number of nuisances abated	47
Number of informal notices served	55
Number of informal notices complied with	41
Number of statutory notices served	8
Number of statutory notices complied with	6
Number of informal notices outstanding at 31-12-54	11
Number of statutory notices outstanding at 31-12-54	2

HOUSING—CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

No clearance areas were declared by the Council during 1954.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act came into operation on the 30th August, 1954. Section 1 required each local authority to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government within a period of twelve months their proposals for dealing with unfit houses in their area. A survey of all old property in the Borough was commenced and by the end of the year about one-third of the town had been covered, approximately 60 houses being provisionally scheduled as "unfit."

Action was taken against individual unfit houses as follows :

[illegible]

HOUSING—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Several inquiries were received and investigated during the year, primarily from owner-occupiers. Although a fair amount of time was spent interviewing and advising prospective applicants, no definite requests for grants were submitted.

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED

Defective roofs	6
Defective windows	2
Defective floors	3
Defective plasterwork	5
Defective fireplaces	1
Damp dwellings	4
Defective water closets	7
Defective W.C. cisterns	4
Defective eaves gutters	7
Defective drains	10
Miscellaneous defects	3
Dirty dwellings	2
Animals kept in insanitary condition	1

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

Number of moveable dwellings licensed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number of nuisances found	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Number of complaints dealt with	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4

BAKEHOUSES

Number on register	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	56

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS

Number on register	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Number of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Premises registered									
(a) Manufacture of ice cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(b) Storage and/or sale of ice cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
(c) Manufacture of sausages	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
(d) Manufacture of preserved food	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
No. of inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	96

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

During the year the following foodstuffs were condemned:

MEAT, MEAT PRODUCTS AND BACON:

21 articles—total weight 649 lbs.

CANNED FOODS:

886 articles—approximate weight 1100lbs.

68 eggs and 3 stone of fish were also condemned.

SLAUGHTERING :

On the 5th July, 1954, Government control of private slaughtering was withdrawn. Temporary licences were issued by the Council for 4 slaughterhouses (compared with a pre-war total of 11)—2 slaughterhouses were used continuously and were granted full licences, whilst the remaining 2 were used very little and the temporary licences were allowed to lapse.

The total number of animals slaughtered from the 5th July to the end of the year was 521, consisting of 74 cattle, 9 calves, 160 sheep and lambs, and 278 pigs (including sows)—on several occasions, particularly during the warmer months, killing was carried out in the evening and some carcasses had to be inspected the same night so as to ensure early despatch the following day. However, all animals slaughtered in the Borough were examined by the Sanitary Inspector before being offered for sale—the quality of the meat was found to be excellent, less than 4% being diseased.

The following table shows details of meat and offal condemned :

		Abscesses (multiple)	Erysipelas	Necrosis	Pneumonia	Tuberculosis (localised)
CATTLE—						
Carcases	..	—	—	—	—	—
Offal	..	—	—	—	—	1
SHEEP & LAMBS—						
Carcases	..	—	—	—	—	—
Offal	..	—	—	1	—	—
PIGS—						
Whole Carcasses	..	2	1	—	—	—
Part Carcasses	..	1	—	—	—	9
Offal	..	—	—	—	2	2

No calves were found to be diseased.

All condemned food was either burnt, buried at the Council's refuse tips, or disposed of direct to authorised processors.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Premises fumigated	2
Filthy or verminous premises sprayed with insecticide	9
Miscellaneous treatments (e.g. wasps nests removed)	29

In addition, the refuse tips at Ballingdon and Waldingfield Road were treated at regular intervals against infestation by flies, crickets, etc.

RODENT CONTROL (Period 1-4-54 to 31-3-55)

Number of properties inspected	2039
Number of properties found to be infested by rats.. .. .	432
Number of infested properties treated by rodent operator:	
(a) Council properties (sewage works and pumping station, refuse tips)	4
(b) Private dwellinghouse	427
(c) Agricultural premises	4
(d) Other premises.. .. .	18
Number of infested properties treated by private servicing companies	2
Number of notices served (informal and statutory).. .. .	1

One treatment of the Council's sewers was carried out during the period. Of a total of 279 manholes, 195 were treated. The number of manholes found to be infested was 59, i.e. 21% of the total number of manholes, representing a reduction of 20% in the number of infested manholes, compared with the figures for 1953—54. The sewer rat population has diminished consistently during the past few years, and this decrease speaks well for the efficiency of the Council's rodent operator.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Premises inspected and licensed	2
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SAMPLING

Samples of water supply and milk taken during the year were satisfactory.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952.

No offences against the Act were observed during the year.

COUNCIL HOUSING ESTATES

In addition to the usual public health duties, the appointment of Sanitary Inspector carries additional responsibility for the maintenance of Council houses and other duties connected with the management of the Council's estates.

At the end of 1953 there were 315 Council houses—a further 62 were erected in 1954 thus making a total of 377 houses at the end of the year.

During the year under review, no fewer than 357 separate complaints or reports of defects were received from Council house tenants, and in consequence a considerable proportion of time had to be spent in dealing with these, interviewing tenants, and supervising the necessary repairs.

External re-decoration of Council houses was recommenced for the first time since 1949, and during the year contracts were placed in respect of 10 pre-war houses and 39 post-war houses—at one stage, three separate contractors were engaged at the same time on different sites, and constant supervision had to be exercised.

Numerous visits to Council estates were also made in regard to the erection of garages and outbuildings, and general observance of the Council's tenancy regulations. Inspections were also made of accommodation occupied by families who had applied for Council houses.

J. KENYON HUNT, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION E.

National Assistance Act, 1948

Section 47.—Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.

No cases arose during the year calling for action in accordance with this section of the Act.

SECTION F

Prevention of and Control over Infectious Diseases

NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED

DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED								
Scarlet Fever	33 (23)
Whooping Cough	5 (74)
Measles	0 (173)
Pneumonia	1 (1)
Infective Jaundice	4 (1)
Puerperal Pyrexia	8 (4)
Erysipelas	5 (0)
Poliomyelitis	0 (0)
Food Poisoning	1 (13)
Dysentery	4 (12)

Figures in parentheses refer to the Year 1953.

AGE OF INCIDENCE

DISEASE	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—
Scarlet Fever	—	4	4	9	14	2	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	4	1	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	
Number of cases at commencement of year	15	19	34	8	3	11	45
Number of cases added during year	3	3	6	—	1	1	7
Number of cases removed during year	4	4	8	1	1	2	10
Number of cases remaining on register at end of year	14	18	32	7	3	10	42
No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.							
Reasons for removal from Register : Left district, 1. Recovered, 2.							

SECTION G

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities **	1	13	41	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	2	76	129	—	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	3	7	16	—	—	3
Total ..		96	186	1	—	

FACTORY ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more “cases”)

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were in- stituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	1	1	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total	60	1	1	—	—	—	60

* *e.g.* Metropolitan Borough, County Borough, Borough, Urban District, Rural District.

† *i.e.* Electrical Stations (Section 103(1)), Institutions (Section 104) and sites of Building Operations and Works of Engineering Construction (Sections 107 and 108).

** Wide differences exist in the lists kept respectively by the Local Authorities and H.M. Inspectors of Factories of the numbers of factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the Factories Acts, 1937 are enforced by Local Authorities. It is requested therefore that Local Authorities should, as soon as can conveniently be arranged, compare their lists of factories with the lists kept by H.M. Inspectors of Factories.

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

			Section 110 No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)
Nature of Work		M/c line No.	
Textile weaving	.. ..	43	4

G. P. BARCLAY,
Medical Officer of Health.

